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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Declassified Case: NW# 78134 Date:
08-25-2025

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President
Vladimir Putin of Russia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: President Putin

Interpreter: Nikolai Sorokin
Notetakers: Cristina Fekkes, Will Lion, and
Derek Westfall

DATE, TIME December 23, 2006, 7:28 - 7:42 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: Camp David

The President: Hey, Vladimir. How are you, sir? (U)

President Putin: Everything is fine thank you. I am very glad
to hear you. First of all I would like to congratulate you and
your family on the coming Christmas. (U)

The President: Thank you. (U)

President Putin: [REDACTED] b(6)

[REDACTED] b(6)

The President: [REDACTED] b(6)

[REDACTED] b(6)

(S)

President Putin: Please convey our best wishes to her. George,
I called you not just to congratulate you on the upcoming
Christmas, but the second topic is Iran. We have talked to you

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Classified by: John I. Pray, Jr.

Reason: 1.4(b)(d)

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An interpreter facilitated this conversation. Differences in interpretation may result in subtle differences in the exact meaning of phrases.

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about it not once, our diplomats have worked very hard on the resolution in the recent days. I know it is very difficult to find the common understanding and common approach, especially in the details. The Europeans have introduced their amendment, which is as follows, that everything which is not forbidden is allowed, and that is what they put on paper. But in the last moment they took it out of the resolution, and as we know this is also because of your influence. But we proceed from the premise that these amendments are very important and would improve the resolution. However, I remember our first conversations in this regard, so I have taken the decision and have given instructions to the foreign ministry to vote for the resolution. We will proceed with the premise that the amendment that has been taken out of the draft, even without being in the text, that the amendment in practice will be working. And we will not block the resolution on that second offense, but we will make a second statement in this regard, having voted for the resolution. Because I think the unity of the Security Council on this very important and delicate issue is very crucial. We have talked about this numerous times, and I proceed on the premise that this is our common approach. I know that now you and the Republicans have not had an easy time in your country. And because we have a common approach on this issue it would be right to show this. (S)

The President: Yes. (S)

President Putin: Because it will strengthen our position on questions where our approach coincides. And there is one other aspect that I would like to have your attention to. Proceeding from the resolution, all the deals before the adoptions from the resolution remain in force and we will proceed from this. And I would like to inform you that this has practical significance, in particular in the areas for military technical cooperation in Iran. In particular, in the beginning of this year, or the end of last year, I don't remember the date, but we concluded a deal with the Iranians, to send them our S-300 complex for air defense. So far we have not delivered those components. And if this particular shipment will take place at all it will take place in 2009, 2010, or even later. Of course this will depend on the general overall situation of the Iranian nuclear program. But the contract has been signed and we will proceed on the premise that we have full right to implement it. George, this is all that I wanted to tell you, and even though the day just started in Washington, I wanted it to start on a positive note. (S)

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The President: It is positive, thank you Vladimir and Merry Christmas as well. I know that diplomacy is difficult at times but I think it is important for the Iranians not to think that there is weakness between the U.S., Russia, and the Europeans. Now thanks to your leadership on this, we now have a resolution and we can say to Iran that the world is serious. I am very concerned when Ahmadinejad brags he has 3,000 centrifuges and will be a nuclear power. That just breeds consternation in the Middle East, in Sunni nations as well as in Israel. Therefore, when he sees Russia and the U.S. working together, it will send them a message. I want to thank you. And secondly, you have made it very clear of the contracts signed prior to the resolution and I understand that. I do think it is a very smart idea that you have said the defense system will be delivered depending on Iranian behavior. That puts you in an interesting position to help them decide what is proper behavior. b(6)

b(6) So give my best to Lyudmila and I will give Laura your best. ~~(S)~~

President Putin: Thank you very much. All the best to you.
(U)

The President: Thank you. Bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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